

CJRCC Minutes 3/5/21

The Oklahoma Criminal Justice Reclassification Coordination Council held a virtual regular meeting on March 5, 2021 at 1:30pm via WebEx, and was held consistent with the amendments to the Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. 2011, §301 *et seq.*, signed into law by Gov. J. Kevin Stitt on February 10, 2021. *See* Senate Bill No. 1031, 2021 O.S.L 3, §2. The agenda was posted on the Attorney General's website 24 hours in advance in accordance with 25 O.S. §311. The meeting notice was sent to the office of the Oklahoma Secretary of State, also pursuant to 25 O.S. §311, and was date-stamped by that office on February 22, 2021 at 2:24pm.

Members attending virtually: Attorney General Mike Hunter, District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler, District Attorney Mike Fields, Deputy Chief Dennis Larsen, Chief Public Defender Bob Ravitz, Oklahoma Indigent Defense System Chief of General Appeals Division Cindy Danner on behalf of Director Craig Sutter, Nisha Wilson on behalf of Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Commissioner Carrie Slatton-Hodges, Director of Pardon and Parole Board Tom Bates, Director of Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Ricky Adams, Russ Cochran on behalf of Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Director Donnie Anderson, Tim Tardibono on behalf of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Jeffrey Cartmell on behalf of Governor Kevin Stitt, and Senator Darrell Weaver. Administrative Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts Jari Askins and Representative Ross Ford joined the meeting later.

Call to order: 1:31pm

Attorney General Mike Hunter called the meeting to order and welcomed the members.

Roll call: 1:36pm

Assistant Attorney General Alexandra Adkins called roll and a lack of quorum was established. District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler entered the meeting at 1:42pm. Roll was recalled and a quorum was established. She noted that the meeting notice and agenda were posted in accordance with the applicable Oklahoma statute.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: 1:44pm

Director Ricky Adams moved to approve the minutes from the Council's last meeting on October 13, 2020. Chief Public Defender Bob Ravitz seconded the motion. It was then passed unanimously by the members.

Discussion of the Reclassification Proposal 1:46

Attorney General Hunter introduced Associate Attorney General Tim Downing. Deputy AG Lori Carter explained the tasks of this Council mandated by statute include reviewing potential recommendations to classify felonies, sentence lengths, appropriate enhancements, and other appropriate changes. She stated that the latest version of the reclassification document was sent out this morning and changes are reflected in green. Representative Ford joined the meeting at 1:47pm. She told the group that the next step is to send her via email any specific changes to the document from members, and she would archive those suggested changes and report to the group. Director Askins joined the meeting at 1:54pm. DA Kunzweiler said our goal is to add certainty for the whole process and greater visualization to the public, and the system can work provided the legislature fully funds treatment programs that DOC will need to safely transition these people back into the community. Deputy AG Lori Carter said she is prepared to create an executive summary. Mr. Tardibono asked about the timeframe. Deputy AG Carter explained that she would be collecting specific comments from members and will sit down with DOC and attempt to determine a fiscal impact, and then present to the whole group. Senator Weaver noted the importance of funding needs and emphasized the need to move quickly to ensure necessary funding and

appropriations conversations can be addressed. Deputy AG Carter said she is unsure how long the fiscal answer from DOC will take, but she intends to work with speed in mind. She does not think official legislative recommendations will be prepared until next session, and DA Kunzweiler emphasized the importance of proper funding being allocated before the changes take place. Attorney General Hunter said he will communicate with DOC and work to establish a timeframe and report back to the council. Deputy AG Carter requested members take the time to study and follow up with her via email while she works to gather the fiscal impact.

Committee Announcements: 2:15pm

A. Enhancements Committee, DA Kunzweiler

a. No committee report

B. Elimination of Crimes Committee, DA Fields

a. No committee report

C. Legislative Committee, Rep. Ross Ford

a. No committee report, but he said he looks forward to getting started and doing his part to push these needed reforms through.

Adjournment

Attorney General Hunter stated that the next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2021 at 1:30pm at the Attorney General's Office but will likely be virtual. He explained a special meeting will be held before if needed. Deputy Chief Larsen moved to adjourn the meeting, and DA Kunzweiler seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:18pm.